

Clive Matthews - Manifesto

I was at SJP the day after moving to Exeter (August 2013) and with my wife Sue have rarely missed a home match since. Grecian Travel, friends and family countrywide, have also seen much more of me than I had ever imagined!

Why?

For the simple reason that our football club, with an ownership structure that encourages active participation from fans who wish to get involved, gets under your skin. Those of us who volunteered during the hectic ticketing period of both Liverpool Cup matches will know exactly what I mean. How many Liverpool fans get really close to their club?

We have all read of recent takeovers elsewhere, including many in and around our current League, and while some will be of long-term benefit, many would make us shudder and be grateful that our future remains in our own hands. That is not to say that we shouldn't constantly seek our own injections of new capital - of course we should - but we should cherish our history whilst striving to safeguard the long-term viability of our Club.

Injections of capital that we as Trust members can influence, come not from a single rich individual, but from us all collectively - with our membership subscriptions, via the turnstiles and through fundraising - think floodlights! I have been a co-opted member of the Trust Board since January 2016 (that new face on the Trust stall is me) and sit on the Ownership Working Group, with its core aim of increasing our membership base.

I am passionate about ECFC, but as a retired Classical Pianist I was surprised to be invited to join the Trust Board - having none of the legal, financial or corporate skills that I perceived would be required of a Trustee. What I have found in a short space of time is that there is also a place for a disciplined, thoughtful and problem solving mind, as demanded of me previously. ECFC clearly require our help in matching competitors ever increasing levels of investment and I would hope to contribute to the solution of this challenge using these same attributes.

Cohesion between supporters and Club is really important and I will continue to do all I can to see that we prosper, both on and off the pitch, with funding that grows sustainably and it is on that basis that I invite your support.

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Clive Matthews

Supporters: Stuart Walker, Andy Gillard, Andy Bratt